in 2008-09 sugar season is mainly on account of reduction in area and lower production of sugarcane in the crop year 2007-08 (Sugar Season 2008-09) and higher diversion of cane to usages other than manufacturing of sugar.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The Central Government, however, has facilitated duty-free import of raw and white/refined by sugar mills, Central/States agencies and merchant importers-exporters with a view augment domestic stocks of sugar.

Statement

Measures taken by the Central Government to augment domestic stocks of sugar.

- Allowed import of raw sugar under Advance Authorization Scheme by sugar mills at zero duty upto 30.09.2009.
- Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills, later extended upto 31.03.2010. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Import of raw sugar was opened to private trade upto 31.03.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis. This has been further extended upto 31.12.2010.
- Allowed duty free import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED upto 1 million tonnes by 01.08.2009 which was extended upto 30.11.2009. Further, duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has also been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies, upto 30.11.2009. This has been further extended upto 31.03.2010 and the cap on import of white/refined sugar has been removed.
- Levy obligation has been removed in respect of all imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar. The white/refined sugar has been also allowed to be sold at the discretion of the importing organizations, but sugar processed from imported raw sugar is subject to accelerated releases.
- States have been requested to waive VAT on imported white/refined sugar so as to make the imports competitive.

Bogus caste certificate cases in FCI

1726. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bogus caste certificate cases in FCI as on 31 March, 2009, State-wise and cadre-wise;

(b) the details of pending cases and reasons for delay; and

(c) the action taken against the officers who have failed to verify caste certificate at the time of recruitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) As verified by State Governments the total number of bogus caste certificate cases, State-wise and Category-wise in the FCI as on 31.03.2009, was as under:-

State	Category				
	I	II	III	IV	Total
Kerala	1	2	3	0	6
Tamil Nadu	1	0	5	3	9
Andhra Pradesh	1	5	8	1	15
Maharashtra	0	0	5	0	5
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	0	1
GRAND TOTAL	3	7	22	4	36

(b) Following number of cases have been referred to State Governments for verification:

State	Category				
	I	II	III	IV	Total
Tamil Nadu	3	1	4	5	13
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	2	2
Karnataka	—	—	3	—	3
Maharashtra	—	1	34	8	43
Gujarat	—	—	21	13	34
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	1	1
Chhattisgarh	—	—	9	8	17
GRAND TOTAL	3	2	71	37	113

Verification of caste certificates is within the purview of the State Governments.

(c) Stringent measures are taken by FCI to ensure strict compliance with instructions for verification of Caste Certificates at the time of recruitment. There is no complaint against any officer of FCI for failing to verify the Caste Certificates at the time of recruitment, as caste certificates are issued by State Governments.

Price rise of sugar

1727. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: